



TRUTH, JUSTICE AND INFORMATION FOR ALL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ISSUE 2017-01

WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

FEBRUARY 2017

Useful Internet Sites and Articles

Texas Legislative News

The Texas legislators met at the state Capitol in Austin on January 10, 2017, for opening day of the 85th regular session of the Texas Legislature. The session will last 140 days and will end on May 29, 2017. Representative Joe Straus of San Antonio was re-elected as Speaker of the House for a fifth term while Senator Kel Seliger of Amarillo was elected as speaker pro tempore. Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht administered the oath of office to both the House and the Senate. As of January 10th, the legislators filed more than 1,300 bills since November 14th, which was the first day pre-filing was permitted. As of February 9th, more than 3,000 bills were filed: 2,108 by the House and 955 by the Senate. Representative Straus set a hopeful tone on his opening day speech, saying the following: "If you walk into a factory or a restaurant or a hospital, you will find citizens of different races, religions and political beliefs working together every day. And that's what Texans should expect of us. So let's follow their example. Let's govern with the same sense of goodness, the same humanity and decency that we so clearly recognize in the people we represent." Quotes from the *Collin County Commercial Record*, January 17, 2017.



Texas Legislature Online

There are several ways to stay current on what the legislators are doing during the 85th regular session. The first is Texas Legislature Online (TLO), available [here](#). This is the official website for the 85th regular session and for the Texas Legislature. The website provides links to several useful and interesting links, including calendars, committees, and members of both the House and the Senate. All daily legislative activity can be tracked on the website and can be accessed by clicking on links to video broadcasts, today's calendars, today's meetings, today's filed bills

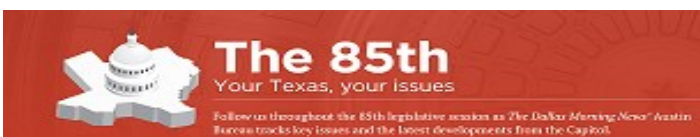
and today's votes for both the House and the Senate. A personalized TLO account may be created for a personalized viewing of all legislative content, alerts to bills, and alerts for committee hearing notices and minutes.



Another helpful website for those interested in paying attention to the current activities of the legislature is the [Legislative Reference Library of Texas](#). The Legislative Reference Library is located on the second floor of the Capitol building in Austin. Their website has a number of interesting and useful links and articles all designed to keep up with the activity of the current session. While this website contains much of the same information as Texas Legislature Online, it has additional items such as current articles of interest to the legislature which are posted from the latest issues of over 300 journals, state documents, and trade publications. The articles are selected by the librarians and posted on a weekly basis to the website.



Lastly, the Dallas Morning News Austin Bureau has an interactive blog to track "key issues and the latest developments from the Capitol." The blog is updated several times a day and can be searched by issue, power players, and legislature involving the following areas: families, communities, and money. The blog is available through this link: <http://interactives.dallasnews.com/2017/the-85th/>.



Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:
droberts@co.collin.tx.us

Spotlight on the Supremes

On February 1, 2017, Chief Justice Hecht gave his second State of the Judiciary address. The address was delivered in the House chamber to both state representatives and senators. The full text is available here: <http://www.txcourts.gov/media/1437101/soj-2017.pdf>. In his address, Chief Justice Hecht urged courthouses statewide to improve security measures, to remain focused on access to justice, and to implement changes to the bail system. A brief summary of the full address is available on the Texas Supreme Court's [website](#).

Contact Information:

Diane L. Roberts
Law Librarian
Email: droberts@co.collin.tx.us

Bethany Fansler
Assistant
Law Librarian
Email: bfansler@co.collin.tx.us

Hours of Operation:
Monday–Friday
8:00 am–5:00 pm

Note: Computers will
automatically log off
at 4:50 p.m.

Did You Know?

The Curt B. Henderson Law Library retains hard copies of all the opinions published by the current Attorney General. The current collection contains only those issued so far during Ken Paxton's term, but the Attorney General's website has digital copies of all opinions dating back to 1939. Those opinions are accessible [here](#).

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

New Assistant Librarian

The Curt B. Henderson Law Library will welcome a new part-time assistant librarian towards the end of this month. Faith Miller was previously a consumer finance paralegal for national bank financial services. She has always had a strong interest in both the legal field and libraries so she is very much looking forward to joining the Law Library team! Outside of work, Ms. Miller is an avid jogger, a lover of the outdoors, an avid Texas Rangers fan, and a proud pet parent of her cat Austin. Please feel free to stop by the reference desk to introduce yourself.

Library Reminders

Thank you to all of the attorneys who come in and respect our no cell phone policy by making and taking phone calls in the hallway. As a reminder, there is a courtesy phone on the back counter for emergencies. There is also the Attorney Lounge on the first floor of the courthouse for those attorneys who need to work while taking calls. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

Thank You!

Also, please remember that if you are bringing a document that requires witnesses, the library is unable to provide witnesses. The librarians will notarize documents but please bring any required witnesses with you.

Lexis Advance Tips

As a reminder, the Curt B. Henderson Law Library is proud to offer Lexis Advance for patron use. The last newsletter covered how to conduct a basic search in Lexis Advance while this one will provide a tutorial on how to use Shepard's Citation Service. To shepardize, simply enter shep: followed by the case citation in the search bar.

Lexis Advance®

Advanced Search | Tips | Get a Doc Assistance

shep: 372us335

Search: Everything



This will bring the user to a thorough snapshot of the treatment of the case searched and a Shepard's signal indicator is available at a glance next to the case searched—yellow in this example. The red box on the left side permits the user to quickly navigate to the Shepard's report section that generated the signal, which is Appellate History, Citing Decisions, Other Citing Sources, and Table of Authorities. The blue box, also on the left, permits the user to further narrow his or her search. Using this "Narrow By" feature, the user may search by specific treatment, specific headnotes, jurisdictions, time frame, and even depth of discussion.

Lexis Advance provides a legend to understand what each of the signal indicators mean. To access the Legend, simply scroll down to the very bottom of the search page and click on Legend.

have held that this same rule applies to criminal contempt proceedings (other than summary proceedings). *United States v. ...*

1 2 3 4 5 ... 878

Legend

Tech Tips: More Useful Apps and Law Blogs

- **Second Chair Mobile Jury**— designed to assist trial attorneys with jury selection. The app allows handwritten notes to be made within the app, the ability to drag and drop jurors in the jury box, and excuse jurors or seat alternates. It includes customizable juror questions. Currently available on iTunes only.
- **Wolfram's Lawyer's Professional Assistant** - available for both Apple and Android for a small fee (around \$4.99), this app provides quick reference assistance. It's the "Swiss army knife" for the courtroom and contains a legal dictionary, statute of limitations information for all 50 states, calendar computations, and financial computations to assist with settlements.
- **Penultimate**— currently available only on an iPad, this is a note taking app that turns the iPad into a legal pad. Notes may be written with either a stylus or just a fingertip. All notes are fully erasable.



The Law Library

will be closed

on Friday,

April 14, 2017

for Good Friday.



New on the Shelf

- Davis's Texas Estate Planning Forms—2017 (*NEW this year*)
- O'Connor's Texas Family Law Handbook—2017
- O'Connor's Texas Rules of Evidence Handbook—2017
- O'Connor's Texas Employment Codes Plus—2016-2017
- O'Connor's Texas Real Estate Forms—2017
- O'Connor's Federal Rules Civil Trials—2017
- O'Connor's Civil Trials—2017
- Bankruptcy Code, Rules & Official Forms—2016-2017
- West's Federal Sentencing Guidelines Digest—2017 Edition
- Federal Criminal Practice, Revision 9
- Federal Jury Practice and Instructions Civil Companion Handbook, 2016-2017
- Texas Criminal Lawyer's Handbook Volumes 1 and 2, Revision 17
- Police Misconduct Law and Litigation, 2016-2017
- Vehicle Search Law Deskbook—2016-2017 Edition
- Courtroom Criminal Evidence Volumes 1 and 2, Sixth Edition
- Depositions: Procedure, Strategy & Technique, 3d—2016-2017 Edition
- Handbook on Texas Discovery Practice—2016-2017
- Texas Construction Law Manual—2016-2017 Edition
- Texas Law of Wills—2016-2017

